

extent depend on what sort of plants and growth forms can be examined or sampled effectively. Methods (West, *op. cit.*) such as shaking climbing plants festooning fences, examining large leaved plants like docks for holes at the convenience of hedge bank height, or even (at least for the gardeners among us) pulling garden weeds, must rank as highly effective sampling techniques. The sources and experiences cited by West (*op. cit.*) and here do, however, suggest that *S. lubricipeda* may be less apt than *S. luteum* to oviposit on trees, given that both species are and were roughly comparable in abundance in the areas under consideration, and further information on this possible difference would be interesting. — M. R. SHAW, Royal Scottish Museum, Chambers Street, Edinburgh EH1 1JF.

COSSUS COSSUS L. (GOAT MOTH) IN S. E. LONDON, 1984. — The occurrence indicated by the title of this note would not, perhaps, be particularly remarkable, were it not that the species has, I understand, suffered a very definite decline in latter years over much of the country which certainly includes the London and south-eastern districts; and further, that I had never either heard of its being found in my own area since the 1920s, or myself seen a trace of it there in any stage. Trees, usually oaks, infested by the larva could from time to time be found in such places as Windsor Great Park, but none in the last decade or two — a state of affairs that seems fairly typical.

I was, therefore, astonished one day last May to come upon a sap-run low down on the trunk of a fair-sized and healthy oak by the roadside at the edge of Blackheath near Greenwich Park, exhaling the strong unmistakable beery odour associated with the larval stage of *Cossus*, and patronized by a small assemblage of sap-loving insects. In point of species, these were all such as might be attracted to flowing sap unconnected with *Cossus* — the lack of really characteristic 'Cossus' beetles being a result of the evidently great rarity of the moth in the area. The most prominent species on that and later occasions was the Nitidulid *Soronia grisea* L., which swarmed in crevices of bark down which sap was flowing and under debris at the base where it had soaked into the soil. Some of the specimens were unusually large for this species, thus more resembling *S. punctatissima* Ill. — a far less common insect. A few of the small Mycetophagid *Litargus connexus* Geof. ran rapidly in the sunshine in and out of cracks of bark, and were difficult to secure in good condition on account of their agility combined with their fragility. Earwigs too (seldom about in bright daylight) paraded excitedly up and down. On a later visit, what had looked like a dried-up flow on the opposite side of the trunk was found to have been reactivated, whilst another, smaller, one had appeared between the other two. By 20th August all three were dry, which could be due to drought restricting the sap, cessation of larval feeding, or both. On

that date, the largest patch (at which a trace of the *Cossus* odour lingered) produced a male of the Muscid *Phaonia trigonalis* Mg. (= *laetabilis* Coll.) – no novelty to the district, but the first I had seen in conditions answering in all respects but locality to its classic habitat, viz. *Cossus* oaks in the New Forest.

It would be premature, no doubt, to see this isolated incident as heralding any degree of reversal of the Goat Moth's long-standing decline in the south-east London suburbs. – A. A. ALLEN.

HORNET CLEARWING: *SESIA APIFORMIS* CLERCK. – On the 27th July 1984, I noted a specimen of this moth by the river Cray in Foots Cray Meadows, Sidcup, Kent. It was resting on a leaf of a poplar sapling about four feet from the ground, and I was able to observe it for about 30 seconds before it flew off. – D. J. WILSON, Nature Conservancy Council, 19/20 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PY.

CHORISOPS NAGATOMII ROZK. (DIPT.: STRATIOMYIDAE) IN SUFFOLK AND S. E. LONDON. – I took a female of this recent addition to our list, described as lately as 1979 (see Allen, 1984, *Ent. mon. Mag.* 120: 150) by sweeping various trees including spruce and cedar, in Brandon Park, Suffolk, on 5th August 1983. This appears to be the second record for the county, the first being for Shadwell Park (1970); in my note cited above Suffolk was accidentally omitted from the half-dozen or so counties for which the fly is recorded.

On 27.viii.84 I swept another ♀ *C. nagatomii* from a Lombardy poplar, one of a long row fringing a sportsground near here, and on 8.ix yet another off field maple about a mile further east at Shooters Hill. This was gratifying as up to then I had only been able to find its commoner congener, *C. tibialis* Mg., in my area (several in the garden here and in a park at Charlton, 1977-8). As before, their identity was at once evident – the lighter, brighter colouring and slightly greater size marking them out from the more sombre-looking *tibialis*. Apart from the far more extensively yellow abdomen, the thorax is often (though not always) a brilliant pure emerald green such as I have not so far seen in the last-named. These finds of *nagatomii* do not constitute new records for Kent, there being already one from near Tonbridge, but they should be the first for the metropolitan area. – A. A. ALLEN.

MALTHINUS FRONTALIS MARSH. (COL.: CANTHARIDAE) IN S. E. LONDON; AND ITS HABITAT. – I met with three females of this very distinct species whilst beating and sweeping under oaks in the woods clothing the lower western portion of Shooters Hill (Eltham Common) on the evening of 20.vii.84. They occurred separately, but all within a limited area. (Males could not be expected at so late a date.) I had worked the latter on earlier occasions in that and previous years, without finding the beetle; indeed I had only encountered it in three localities, all well outside the London